

Habitat Management Enhancements



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Minnesota, 2006

Improve utilization of buffer practices for wildlife by increasing width of existing buffer strips.

Definition

Add a minimum of 50 feet and a maximum of 80 feet to the width of any existing perennial buffer utilizing a mixture of native perennial vegetation.

Purpose

Perennial vegetation buffers can provide wildlife habitat, wildlife movement corridors, reduce salinity, and improve water quality by reducing sediments, organic matter and other pollutants entering aquatic systems.

Where Used

Apply this enhancement to existing buffers along any water course or water body located in cropland to enhance wildlife habitat. The planned perennial vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs and legumes) shall be appropriate to landscape based on Trygg maps, and are to be left undisturbed throughout the growing season.

Operation and Maintenance

Herbaceous vegetation can be manipulated at a maximum of once every 5 years to maintain plant vigor. Haying, grazing, prescribed burning, light disking can be used to manipulate the herbaceous, perennial vegetation. No payment reduction is required during the year manipulated.

Documentation Required

Buffer Type	Field Number	Width (ft)	Acres	Management

Payment Rate

The payment rate is an annual payment per acre of established and maintained perennial buffers, up to an additional 80 feet.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

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